

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Specification as follows at paragraph 36:

- [36] Figure 9 illustrates a flow process of operation involving a biometric security feature with a fingerprint. In step 400, biometric device 345, such as a fingerprint reader, scans a finger tip of a user's hand so as to store a digital fingerprint. For example, a thumbprint may be scanned by a fingerprint reader. In step 403, the digital fingerprint is stored in memory. In step 405, a processor with the keyboard base 204 and 304 or host computer 100 is configured to compare the received digital fingerprint with a predetermined fingerprint stored in a computer readable memory for a particular user or users. The computer readable memory may reside in the host computer 100 or may be memory 224 in keyboard base 204, 304. In step 407, if there is a fingerprint match between the received fingerprint and the predetermined fingerprint, then a signal is sent to release, decouple, or otherwise release the removable portion 236,336 from the keyboard base 204, 304. In step 409, the removal portion 236, 336 is then released from the base unit. In step 409, if there is no match, then the removable portion 236, 336 are prevented from releasing and flow starts again at the fingerprint scanner to step 400. Further, ~~the~~ there may be a light illuminated or other indication that the user was not authorized to obtain the removable portion. It should be recognized that in step 407, a signal may also be sent to enable the key functions of the removable portion 236, 336. to allow a user to operate the alphanumeric section or other keys. In this situation, in step 409, the enabling signal may then allow the key functions to operate. This feature would be advantageous to unlock the keyboard functions for an authorized user of the keyboard system. Nevertheless, the biometric feature can be used with the operating system or application software for execution with host computer 100. It should be recognize that other biometric characteristics may be used and stored for the system. Such examples, may be a voice imprint or portions of a user's hand.

[36] Figure 9 illustrates a flow process of operation involving a biometric security feature with a fingerprint. In step 400, biometric device 345, such as a fingerprint reader, scans a finger tip of a user's hand so as to store a digital fingerprint. For example, a thumbprint may be scanned by a fingerprint reader. In step 403, the digital fingerprint is stored in memory. In step 405, a processor with the keyboard base 204 and 304 or host computer 100 is configured to compare the received digital fingerprint with a predetermined fingerprint stored in a computer readable memory for a particular user or users. The computer readable memory may reside in the host computer 100 or may be memory 224 in keyboard base 204, 304. In step 407, if there is a fingerprint match between the received fingerprint and the predetermined fingerprint, then a signal is sent to release, decouple, or otherwise release the removable portion 236, 336 from the keyboard base 204, 304. In step 409, the removal portion 236, 336 is then released from the base unit. In step 409, if there is no match, then the removable portion 236, 336 are prevented from releasing and flow starts again at the fingerprint scanner to step 400. Further, there may be a light illuminated or other indication that the user was not authorized to obtain the removable portion. It should be recognized that in step 407, a signal may also be sent to enable the key functions of the removable portion 236, 336. to allow a user to operate the alphanumeric section or other keys. In this situation, in step 409, the enabling signal may then allow the key functions to operate. This feature would be advantageous to unlock the keyboard functions for an authorized user of the keyboard system. Nevertheless, the biometric feature can be used with the operating system or application software for execution with host computer 100. It should be recognize that other biometric characteristics may be used and stored for the system. Such examples, may be a voice imprint or portions of a user's hand.